

ARPA Public Meeting 11-17-21

Community Planning Committee-- Host

At BWVC

Attendees:

Larry Walker

Evelyn Knotts

Walter Borders

Ed Bishoff

Carol Larson

Barbara Macklem

Allison Wakeland

Ron Ozer

Elizabeth Varley

Joe Grippe

Sadie Sommerville

Rodney Jester

Committee members:

Jennifer Borders, Pam Politis, John Scheflen, Ron Meick

1. Process/timeline for decision-making

The Initial Proposal Form for submission of ideas can be found online at:

<https://arden.delaware.gov/committees/community-planning>

There will be a second public meeting in January- date TBA.

The Town has engaged a law firm to guide us through the eligibility and reporting requirements.

At the January Town Meeting the initial proposals will be voted on to narrow them down.

There will be another public meeting prior to the March Town Meeting if needed.

March Town meeting will include a vote on projects to be funded immediately. Not all funds need to be expended at this meeting.

Funding kicks in March 2022 for Village of Arden Fiscal year.

December 31, 2024 is deadline for committing all funds.

## 2. General description of ARPA

Jen reviewed the description of ARPA, its purpose as Covid relief, and funding categories from the treasury.gov website.

## 4. Open discussion & collection of ideas for use of funds

Larry Walker: From Playground Committee—2 projects

1. Climber for 2-6 year-olds to replace jungle gym on Sherwood Green that is not compliant. ~\$10,000
2. A large cable climber for the Sherwood Green to encourage physically challenging outdoor play ~\$35,000. Larry says he has found support in the law for playground equipment and can add that to proposal.
3. Rodney-playground may have lead paint on it and should be a consideration in replacing it. Larry remarked that testing has not detected any lead on the playground

Walt Borders: BWVC

1. Sewer and water lines are in need of replacement, and these funds could be used to dig up lines and replace cast iron sewer line with PVC—note that tearing up sewer line may tear up garden/court/etc. so upgrades may be done after sewer line work is done.
2. Install video set up for zoom meetings/speaker system from stage to all rooms
3. Repave blacktop/upgrade court/storage shed/garden upgrade fence
4. Mitigate income loss-loss of rental income due to event cancellation.

Carol: From Forest Committee/Civic Committee

The Town's Stormwater Plan has been completed and a detailed report was issued. ARPA funds could be used to implement high-priority proposals in the report regarding water run-off to mitigate pollutants, mitigate flooding problems, and prevent further damage to the forests. ARPA funds would qualify as matching funds for DNREC grants that could be matched by state.

Elizabeth: Trustee

Funding public projects is appropriate.

Alison: Ardentown Chair

Ardentown has already started spending their ARPA funds on projects on the Petit Green. She is interested in partnering with Arden on some projects, such as mental health and childcare.

Ron: Arden Club

The Arden Club pool is a small business in town and struggled during Covid. Funds can be used to restore lost revenue.

Shady Grove area needs an upgrade to support more outdoor activities. A pavilion could be built.

We could use the money on needed capital expenses to reduce land rent burden for those in Town-- for instance if sewer lines need to be replaced.

There are strict rules around accounting/audits for use of government funding. Town has a regular audit procedures. Jen mentioned that the Town Treasurer, Skip Bailey, will be monitoring the requirements and making sure we are in compliance.

John: Community Planning Committee

We are hearing great ideas, but recognize that the regulations are vague and may be difficult to interpret. It is helpful that we have access to a law firm for advice and confirm the eligibility of projects.

Jeffrey: Arden Town Meeting Chair

1. Stormwater
2. Municipal infrastructure-- Arden Craft Shop Museum wall is crumbling needs repointing. It houses our archives.
3. Club is the evacuation site for all villages so grants to improve facilities for emergency management small business grants.
4. Public WIFI -- we could create Wi-Fi as a village utility; without high speed internet, people don't have access to essential services.
5. Emergency management systems generally-how to communicate to residents in an emergency?
6. Educational impact of Covid lock-down on children in town—how can we supplement education for kids who may or may not be falling behind?

Pam: Community Planning Committee

Pedestrian bridge across Harvey Road?

Tom: Arden Club Library

The Arden Club Library could tie into education support or with broadband WIFI to help with homework.

Jen: Community Planning Committee

The ACRA Relief fund has been working with the Claymont Community Center to help families. We could continue that funding or create a new relief fund with the monies.

Barbara: Arden Craft Shop Museum

The strength of our village is “community” how to we strengthen community that has been weakened by pandemic? Perhaps more outdoor gathering places? Other ways of rebuilding our community across generations would be beneficial.

Jen thanked everyone for the good discussion and explained where to find the proposal form on the Arden website. Completed proposals should be

submitted directly to the Community Planning email:  
[planning@arden.delaware.gov](mailto:planning@arden.delaware.gov), or to the Town mailbox.